

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: MANEUVERING ON THE RIGHT

1. MOVING TO SEIZE THE POLITICAL INITIATIVE FOLLOWING HIS SETBACK AT THE RECENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MSI, PARTY SECRETARY GIORGIO ALMIRANTE HAS PURGED THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF A NUMBER OF "MODERATES" WHO HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR A CHANGE IN THE MSI'S LINE IN THE WKE OF ITS POOR SHOWING IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS. AMONG THOSE OUSTED FROM THE PARTY'S MOST IMPORTANT DECISION-MAKING BODY WERE MARIO TEDESCHI, ANGELO NICOSIA, RAFFAELE DELFINO AND CLEMENTE MANCO.

2. THE PRESS SPECULATES THAT WITH THE REINS OF THE PARTY MORE TIGHTLY IN HIS HANDS, FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY, ALMIRANTE WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK MORE CONFIDENTLY TO THE FORTH-COMING EXTRAORDINARY NATIONAL CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER. A CORRIERE DELLA SERA ARTICLE OF JULY 20 CONCLUDES THAT IF ALMIRANTE IS ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY UTILIZE THE LEVERS OF POWER WITHIN THE PARTY, INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT HIS DISPOSAL, HE SHOULD SUCCEED IN SECURING HIS RE-ELECTION AS NATIONAL SECRETARY AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

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3. ACCORDING TO CORRIERE ALMIRANTE HAS NOW ALIGNED

HIMSELF WITH THE "HARDLINERS" OF THE PARTY AND HAS CEASED TO SERVE AS THE MEDIATOR SERVING TO HOLD TOGETHER THE MSI'S RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEPARTURE OF THE MODERATES, WHO ARE SUPPORTED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF THE MSI PARLIAMENTARIANS, FROM THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE IS SEEN AS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS THAT COULD LEAD TO A SPLIT IN THE PARTY AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CORRIERE SUGGESTS THE FORMATION OF A RIGHTIST PARLIAMENTARY GROUPING, WITH TIES TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL "NOVELTY" OF THE FORTHCOMING MONTHS.

4. ACCORDING TO A RESPONSIBLE JOURNALIST WITH CENTER-RIGHT LEANINGS, REPORTS OF THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL GROUPING ON THE RIGHT ARE SURFACING MORE FREQUENTLY. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS JULY 16, HE SAID THAT THERE ARE SIGNS OF A COALESCING OF ELEMENTS FROM THE MSI, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, THE REPUBLICANS AND EVEN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. ONE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT WHO REPORTEDLY MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW MOVEMENT IS FORMER TUSCAN REGIONAL SECRETARY BUTTINI. OUR SOURCE ESTIMATES THAT THE NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT, IF SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED, WOULD HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF GARNERING APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILLION VOTES IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS, AND ITS PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LED COALITION. THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD FURTHER ISOLATE THE HARD CORE OF THE MSI, REDUCING ITS ELECTORAL STRENGTH TO APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF MILLION VOTES.VOLPE

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